WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of Fisheries Development Board

*61. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up Fisheries Development Board for overall development of this sector specially the inland fisheries;

(b) if so, its location and time-frame within which it would be set up;

(c) what is the extent of poaching in our waters by foreign trawlers; and

(d) the action plan of Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The feasibility of establishing a National Fisheries Development Board is under examination.

(c) Poaching by foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters is mainly confined to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and to some extent in Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar, Gujarat and off Sand-heads.

(d) Poaching by foreign fishing trawlers in Indian waters is controlled by Indian Coast Guard under the powers delegated to them in the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Fishing Vessles) Act, 1981 and the Rules framed thereunder. Regular patrolling including night patrolling is being maintained by Coast Guard ships and aircraft to control poaching.

Vaccination and immune system

*62. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vaccination weakens the immune system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have made any research in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) According to ICMR, there are no scientific studies which indicate that vaccination weakens the immune response.

Scientists at National Institute of Immunology have done research and not found any general weakening of the immune system in response to vaccination. Neither have other researchers in other parts of the world made such findings. Vaccination apart from being administered for preventive purposes is also administered for life saving treatment; like for dog bite, snake bite, yellow fever, typhoid etc.

Vaccination is one of the most cost effective public health intervention for diseases control. Globally, it is estimated that three million lives are saved annually on account of vaccination. It is a process where immunity is acquired by introduction of various antigens or antibodies. A vaccine is composed of one or more antigens of the pathogens which induces protective immune response.

There are adequate provisions under Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Rules framed thereunder for pre-clinical and clinical studies before marketing approval is granted for any vaccine. This includes evaluation of toxicity, reacto-genicity and Immuno-genicity of vaccine. Besides these, there are strict requirements of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for production of vaccines. Licensing of vaccine in the country, has further been brought within the purview of Central Licensing. There are elaborate mechanism of consultation with experts to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of all vaccines in the country.

Requirement of wagons for 2005-06

*63. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons required by Railways for 2005-06;

(b) whether orders for these wagons have been placed to the wagon manufacturers and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the orders of wagons could not be executed during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether wagon manufacturers want to firm up orders for any fiscal at least 90 days before the beginning of that fiscal year; and

(f) if so, the reasons for late placement of orders and supply of free steel and wheels to builders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Wagon acquisition is dependent upon the traffic needs and availability of funds